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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5977
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 6803
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6872
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0416
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2239
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RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MAJURO 0020
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY KOROR 0002
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 4138
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OSD/ISA/EAP
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1636
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RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
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RHMFIUU/COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA
RHMFIUU/COMCOGARD FORCECOM ALAMEDA CA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 001668

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PBTS](#) [PREL](#) [PHSA](#) [EWWT](#) [MCAP](#) [XB](#)

SUBJECT: U.S. COAST GUARD DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH ASIAN
COUNTERPARTS

11. (U) This message is from the American Presence Post (APP) in
Busan, Republic of Korea.

12. (U) SUMMARY: The Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard met
with his counterparts from Canada, Japan, China, South Korea, and
Russia at the annual North Pacific Coast Guard Forum. Through these
meetings, the USCG discussed opportunities to increase exchanges and
cooperation throughout the region. Combating piracy and organized
crime were also important topics discussed, as well as cooperating
to strengthen Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau's capacity
to patrol their own maritime boundaries. END SUMMARY.

13. (U) Vice Admiral D.P. Pekoske, Vice Commandant of the U.S. Coast
Guard, and Vice Admiral Jody Breckenridge, Pacific Area Commander,
headed the U.S. delegation to the annual North Pacific Coast Guard
Forum (NPCGF), held this year in Busan, Korea, September 7-10.
During the forum, the Admirals held bilateral meetings with their
counterparts from Canada, Japan, China, South Korea, and Russia.

CANADA -- NO TO LORAN-C, YES TO ICE BREAKERS

14. (SBU) With Commissioner George Da Pont of the Canadian Coast
Guard (CCG), VADM Pekoske discussed various issues of close
cooperation. Recognizing its limitations and maintenance
difficulties, Commissioner Da Pont expressed his interest in having
the CCG move away from the LORAN-C network, a system run in
cooperation with Canada and Russia that provides radionavigation
service through U.S. and Canadian coastal waters, as well as the
Bering Sea. Commissioner Da Pont stated that Canada will follow the
USCG in this respect. The CCG Commissioner also shared his desire
that the CCG acquire two to three new heavy ice breakers, to be used
in conjunction with the Canadian Navy. Additionally, he hoped that
the USCG would consider "going in" with the CCG on one of the new
icebreakers in order to reduce costs. As it reads now, it sounds
like the USCG would be working with the Canadian Navy.

JAPAN -- COMBATING PIRACY IN AFRICA AND SE ASIA

15. (SBU) Meeting shortly after the August 30 historical, Japanese
election, Admiral Suzuki Hisayasu of the Japanese Coast Guard (JCG)
stated that he believes the new Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama is in

favor of and will support the JCG. Admiral Suzuki and VADM Pecoske also discussed Japan's involvement in combating piracy. Admiral Suzuki explained that the JCG sent eight of its members on two Maritime Defense Force Vessels to the Horn of Africa, where they assisted in escorting 121 ships safely. He further shared that the JCG has the primary mandate to fight piracy, but that Africa is far enough that the JCG is required to cooperate with the Japan Self-Defense Force. However, the JCG plans on dispatching its own vessels to combat piracy in Southeast Asia.

¶16. (SBU) The two admirals discussed additional avenues of cooperation. One, Admiral Suzuki and VADM Pecoske agreed on the benefits of cooperating with the work of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation in the Pacific states of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, conceptually agreeing to increase the Pacific islands' capacity to better patrol their own waters. Two, they also suggested formalizing professional exchanges between the two services over the coming year.

CHINA -- INCREASING EXCHANGES

¶17. (SBU) Senior Colonel Wang Zhengping of the China Coast Guard (CCG) and VADM Pecoske discussed the fruitful nature of exchanges and visits currently ongoing between the USCG and the CCG. Among these is the commitment by USCG Commandant Admiral Thad Allen to send a Coast Guard Cutter to Shanghai during World Expo 2010. However, due to the complexity of security issues, Senior Colonel Wang suggested that this port call might need to be relocated at that time.

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¶18. (U) Other visits and exchanges that took place in 2009 include both ADM Allen and VADM Pecoske's visits to Beijing and port cities in China. The Border Control Department sent four cadets and two officers for a limited exchange to operational units in Seattle, WA, and the USCG Academy in New London, CT, during the summer of 2009. The USCG intends to send a USCG cadet to the Maritime Police Academy in Ningbo, China, for a reciprocal visit in the near future.

KOREA -- MORE EXCHANGES AND VISITS, PLEASE

¶19. (SBU) Commissioner General Lee Gil-bum of the Korean Coast Guard (KCG) emphasized his desire for a strong exchange program with the USCG. Likewise, Commissioner General Lee would like to send a delegation to USCG training facilities to observe its anti-pollution systems. The KCG plans to open a comprehensive training center in 2013 and would like to develop similar anti-pollution systems. Commissioner General Lee and VADM Pecoske agreed to have their staff develop the necessary mechanisms for such exchanges.

RUSSIA - CONCERN WITH MARITIME ORGANIZED CRIME

¶110. (SBU) Colonel General Victor Trufanov's greatest concern was with Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishery operations. Specifically Colonel General Trufanov emphasized his belief that IUU fishing is tied to the trafficking of arms, drugs, or persons. As such, Colonel General Trufanov suggested greater cooperation and intelligence sharing among the countries involved in the NPCGF.

COMMENT

¶111. (SBU) Through the NPCGF, the USCG has been able to deepen relations and cooperation with their Northeast Asian counterparts and develop positive synergy on key Coast Guard missions, including search and rescue and combating trafficking, illegal maritime operations, and piracy. For example, exchange of personnel and expertise was a consistent theme in each bilateral meeting, with all participants hoping to increase the quality and quantity of exchange programs. Such participation serves as an additional tool through which the United States can improve relations within the region.

